

James Knox Polk to Andrew Jackson, May 15, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JAMES K. POLK TO JACKSON.

Private and confidential

Columbia, tennessee, May 15, 1835.

. . . . Every day makes new developements of the game that is playing to divide and conquer us. I will lend no countenance to so wicked. a design. My views are expressed in the Speech a copy of which I sent you. I hope they may meet the approbation of yourself and my other political friends at a distance. My associations, as I know yours were, have been for many years, of the most intimate kind with Judge W[hite] and if his claims had been or were submitted to his own party, and they had taken him up, there are but few if any that I would have preferred to him. I so expressed myself. If he be not, "Measures not men" shall be, as it has been my motto, and I will give my support to the strong man of the party. Since my speech was made great efforts continue to be made to bring out opposition in my District. Political letters with that object, are constantly written from Nashville to my district. I understand further that, *Senator Moore* of Al.¹ who has disgraced his seat in that body, has written a letter to a relative in my District, to have me opposed and beaten. So far they have not succeeded in bringing out opposition, and if they do, I do not fear it. I am and shall continue to be active in my District. The excitement I think, especially about the towns has increased and is increasing. Among other movements, here, is an invitation gotten up to Judge W. to dine. If he comes I will maintain my position firmly. The press here is

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1 Gabriel Moore, senator 1831–1837.

almost in open opposition to your administration; so much so that I can have no intercourse with its present conductors. My friends and the friends of your administration and the continued Union of the party, are resolved to have another here shortly.

Virginia has done nobly, and must I think go far to extinguish the hopes, of those who would throw themselves into the arms of the enemies of your administration, for the purpose of dividing and destroying the great party who have heretofore supported you. There must be a re-action here. When the people see that the Nashville press, has gone into open opposition, they will not bear it. The article in the *Banner* of yesterday in relation to the appointment of Mr. Kendall for example,² has seldom been exceeded by the most violent opposition prints. They should as I trust they will be so treated, by the true friends of the administration every where. Johnson has no opposition yet. I think it probable we will have true men from Inge³ and Crockett's Districts. Gnl. Brady will without doubt be elected.

2 Amos Kendall had just been appointed Postmaster General.

3 William M. Inge, M. C. from Tennessee 1833–1835.

I was on the eve of starting to Bradford when your letter reached me, and write in haste. I still think the information, which I requested Majr. Donelson to forward to me, may be important.

I am very Sincerely Yr. friend